HOUSE No. 3637

By Ms. Balser of Newton, petition of Ruth B. Balser and others relative to enhancing the health of school children. Public Health.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PETITION OF:

Ruth B. Balser Richard T. Moore Shirley Gomes Frank I. Smizik John W. Scibak

In the Year Two Thousand and Five.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO ENHANCING THE HEALTH OF SCHOOL CHILDREN.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 57 of chapter 71 of the General Laws, as
- 2 appearing in the 1998 Official Edition, is hereby amended by
- 3 inserting after the first paragraph the following paragraph:—
- 4 Every private school shall be required to inform each parent
- 5 and guardian of every enrolled pupil that, under the requirements
- 6 of this section, said school is not required by law to conduct said
- 7 examinations except at the individual request of a parent or
- 8 guardian. Every private school shall likewise be required to obtain
- 9 from a parent or guardian of every enrolled pupil, provided that
- 10 said parent or guardian has not made said individual request, on
- 11 an annual basis a form signed by the pupil's primary care physi-
- 12 cian or pediatrician stating that said examinations have been con-
- 13 ducted by them. Any pupil shall be exempt on religious grounds
- 14 from these examinations upon written request of a parent or
- 15 guardian on condition that the laws and regulations relating to
- 16 communicable diseases shall not be violated.
- 1 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect on July 1 subsequent to
- 2 its enactment.